231 Rashid of Al Ajman, horses are not kept in Oman on account of the difficulty of obtaining suitable fodder.

433 The industries of the Persian Gulf are pearl diving, fishing, a limited amount of canning for export, date cultivation, ship-building, ochre mining, and wool-weaving, but of these the pre-228 eminent industry is that of the pearl banks. In summer most of the 464 able-bodied men repair to the pearl banks, some returning in November to take part in the fisheries, although the majority stay at home in idleness and are supported by means of loans advanced by the boat owners and contractors. Having 'subbed' on their next season's wages, they are legally bound to work for the same pearler, and the system is such that they are in effect bound to him for life. It is no uncommon thing for a contractor to claim the services of a son whose father has been killed by a shark, or drowned, in liquidation of the debt owed by the deceased diver, and the whole business starts again through the next generation.

In July, 1944, I saw a diver who had been mauled by a shark eighteen feet below the water. His calf and the thigh of one leg had been bitten away to the bone, and he had spent five days in a [752] dhow before being brought in. The wound, which had been soaked in henna, was very putrid and full of maggots. He was placed in the sick quarters and the maggots were allowed to continue their work of devouring the rotten flesh. Within six weeks the wound had healed up sufficiently for the man to go home. He said he would return to diving again as soon as he was well!